(b) to (d) Ministry of Finance has already sanctioned proposed staff for the purpose. Bureau of Immigration has deployed IB personnel to man maximum number of counters during peak hours, thereby reducing waiting time at Immigration as per norms set up by ICAO.

State-of-art airports

315. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the State-of-art airports inaugurated during the current financial year; and

(b) the details of the extent of participation of private sector in the construction of these airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) A new Green field airport called, Bangalore International Airport has been commissioned on 24th May, 2008 at Devanahalli near Bangalore.

(b) The Greenfield airport project has been implemented on Build Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis with Public - Private - Participation (PPP). Government of Karnataka (GoK) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) together hold 26% equity and a Consortium comprising of Siemens, Germany, Unique Zurich, Switzerland and Larsen and Toubro India Limited, hold the balance 74%.

Helicopter services in the country

316. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the infrastructure requirements for helicopter operations in India;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to import helicopters for commercial operations in India;

(c) whether civilian air routes have been chalked out for the purpose;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) the certification and licensing procedures for building helipads;

(f) whether there is a tariff regulating authority for commercial operations of helicopters in India; and

(g) whether the commercial operators are free to charge any fare to cover cost of operations and make profit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present dedicated infrastructure for operation of helicopters does not exist. The helicopters are operated from normal airports. However, at Mumbai, Juhu airport is being predominantly used for helicopter operations for off-shore flights.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of Government to import helicopters. However, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited has plans to buy 16 helicopters.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The procedures exist in the form of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 4 Series B Parts II and III.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Government does not regulate air fare.

Modernization of Bagdogra Airport

†317. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of progress made in the work for modernizations of Bagdogra Airport;

(b) whether Government is considering to give International status to Bagdogra Airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) AAI has undertaken strengthening and expansion of apron of Bagdogra airport. The work is expected to be completed by the end of December, 2008..

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Rajkot Airport

318. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1871 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18 March, 2008 and state:

(a) whether Railway Authorities have transferred 21 hectares approx. land to Airports Authority of India (AAI);

(b) if so, whether AAI has started rehabilitation work for affected residential units existing in the land; and

(c) by when the upgradation work of Rajkot Airport is likely to be undertaken by AAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Railway Authorities have not yet transferred the requisite land to Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) AAI has development plans for construction of New Terminal Building to cater for 250 passengers and construction of new apron and link taxiway on the existing land.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.